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Claims

[c1] 1. A data cartridge magazine that is useful in moving cartridges between an environment that is exterior to a data cartridge library and an environment within a data cartridge library comprising:

a box structure that defines an interior space that is capable of accommodating a plurality of data cartridges;

wherein said box structure comprises a bottom wall with a bottom wall interior surface and a bottom wall exterior surface;

wherein said box structure comprises a side wall that is operatively attached to said bottom wall, extends from said bottom wall to a side wall terminal edge, and has a side wall interior surface and a side wall exterior surface;

wherein said side wall comprises a first side wall portion, a second side wall portion that is separated from said first side wall portion and substantially parallel to said first side wall portion, a third side wall portion that is substantially perpendicular to said first side wall portion, and a fourth side wall portion that is separated from said third side wall portion and substantially parallel to said third side wall portion;

wherein said bottom wall interior surface and said side

wall interior surface define said interior space;
wherein said side wall terminal edge defines an opening for the insertion/extraction of data cartridges into/from said interior space;
a plurality of partitioning structures for dividing said interior space into a plurality of slots with each of said plurality of slots being capable of accommodating a data cartridge; and
a coupling structure that allows said box structure to be attached/detached from an entry/exit port structure;
wherein said coupling structure comprises a first substantially rigid flange that extends away from said first side wall portion and a second substantially rigid flange that extends away from said second side wall portion.

[c2] 2. A data cartridge magazine, as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
said first substantially rigid flange is located a first flange first distance from said third side wall portion and a first flange second distance from said fourth side wall portion; and
said second substantially rigid flange is located a second flange first distance from said third side wall portion and a second flange second distance from said fourth side wall;
wherein said first flange first distance is different than

said first flange second distance;
wherein said first flange first distance is different than said second flange second distance.

[c3] 3. A data cartridge magazine, as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
said first substantially rigid flange extends substantially parallel to said bottom wall and is located a first distance from said terminal edge;
said coupling structure further comprises an opposing surface that extends away from said first side wall portion and is located a second distance from said terminal edge that is less than said first distance.

[c4] 4. A data cartridge magazine, as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
said first substantially rigid flange extends substantially parallel to said bottom wall and is located a first distance from said terminal edge;
said coupling structure further comprises a first and second opposing surfaces that each extends away from said first side wall portion and is located a second distance from said terminal edge that is less than said first distance.

[c5] 5. A data cartridge magazine, as claimed in claim 4, wherein:

said first substantially rigid flange is located a first distance from said third side wall portion;
said first opposing surface is located a second distance from said third side wall portion that is different than said first distance; and
said second opposing surface is located a third distance from said third side wall portion that is different than said first and second distances.

[c6] 6. A data cartridge magazine, as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a bar code surface that is capable of accommodating a bar code.

[c7] 7. A data cartridge magazine, as claimed in claim 6, wherein:
said bar code surface extends substantially parallel to said bottom wall.

[c8] 8. A data cartridge magazine, as claimed in claim 6, wherein:
said bar code surface has a surface vector that is substantially parallel to a surface vector of said bottom wall interior surface.

[c9] 9. A data cartridge magazine, as claimed in claim 6, wherein:

said bar code surface is associated with one of said third side wall portion and said fourth side wall portion.

[c10] 10. A data cartridge magazine, as claimed in claims 6, 7, 8 or 9, further comprising:
a bar code that is operatively associated with said bar code surface.

[c11] 11. A data cartridge magazine, as claimed in claim 6, wherein:
said bar code surface comprises:
a first bar code surface that is capable of accommodating a bar code; and
a second bar code surface that is capable of accommodating a bar code and is separated from said first bar code surface.

[c12] 12. A data cartridge magazine, as claimed in claims 11, further comprising:
a first bar code that is operatively associated with said first bar code surface; and
a second bar code that is operatively associated with said second bar code surface.

[c13] 13. A data cartridge magazine, as claimed in claim 6, wherein:
said bar code surface comprises:

a first bar code surface that is capable of accommodating a bar code;

a second bar code surface that is capable of accommodating a bar code and is separated from said first bar code surface; and

a third bar code surface that is capable of accommodating a bar code and is separated from said first and second bar code surfaces.

[c14] 14. A data cartridge magazine, as claimed in claims 13, further comprising:

a first bar code that is operatively associated with said first bar code surface;

a second bar code that is operatively associated with said second bar code surface; and

a third bar code that is operatively associated with said third bar code surface.

[c15] 15. A data cartridge magazine, as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a strut extending between said first and second side wall portions.

[c16] 16. A data cartridge magazine, as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a dust cover for placing over said interior space;

wherein said dust cover comprises a dust cover exterior

surface and a dust cover interior surface.

[c17] 17. A data cartridge magazine, as claimed in claim 16, wherein:
said dust cover exterior surface comprises a stacking structure for facilitating stacking of the data cartridge magazine with another data cartridge magazine.

[c18] 18. A data cartridge magazine, as claimed in claim 17, wherein:
said stacking structure comprises a plurality of bumps.

[c19] 19. A data cartridge magazine, as claimed in claim 17, wherein:
said stacking structure comprises a plurality of recesses/holes.

[c20] 20. A data cartridge magazine, as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
said bottom wall exterior surface comprises a stacking structure for facilitating stacking of the data cartridge magazine with another data cartridge magazine.

[c21] 21. A data cartridge magazine, as claimed in claim 20, wherein:
said stacking structure comprises a plurality of recesses/holes.

[c22] 22. A data cartridge magazine, as claimed in claim 20, wherein:
said stacking structure comprises a plurality of bumps.

[c23] 23. A data cartridge magazine, as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
one or more data cartridges located in said interior space.